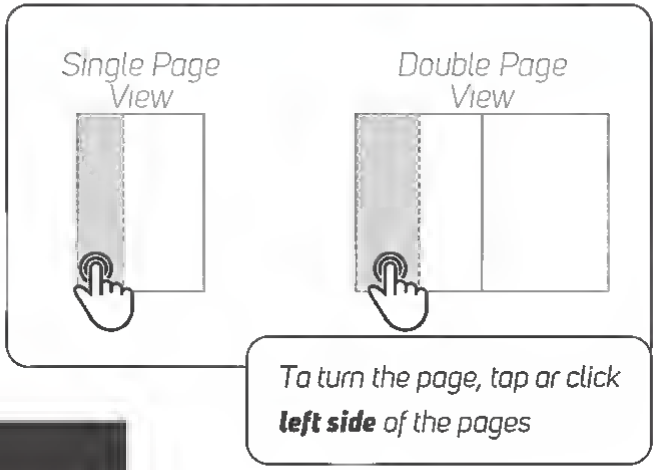
A **COMIC ZENON** Production

Arte

by KEI OHKUBO

This manga is read in
RIGHT to LEFT
page order

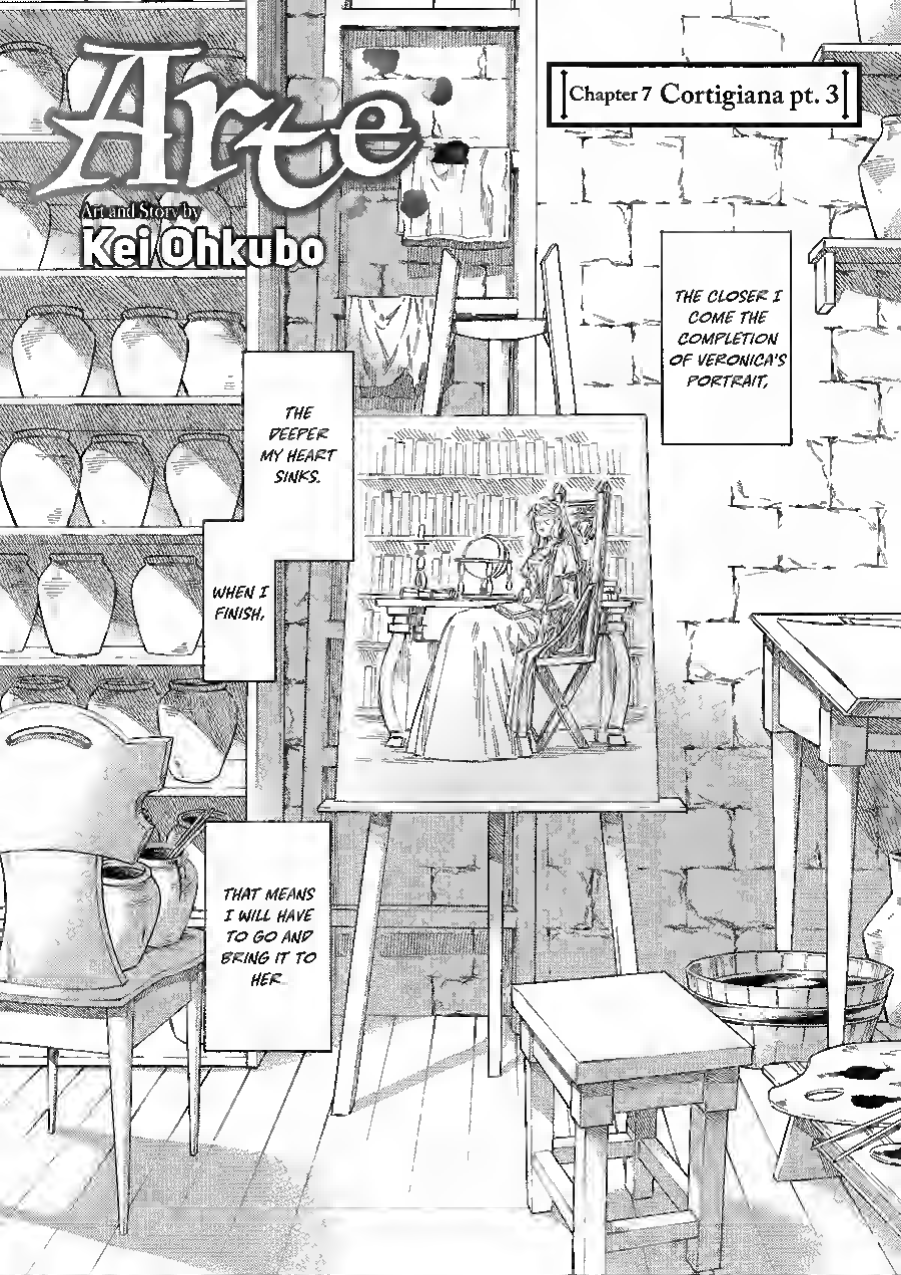


PLEASE TAP
LEFT
TO BEGIN!

Arte

Art and Story by
Kei Ohkubo

Chapter 7 Cortigiana pt. 3

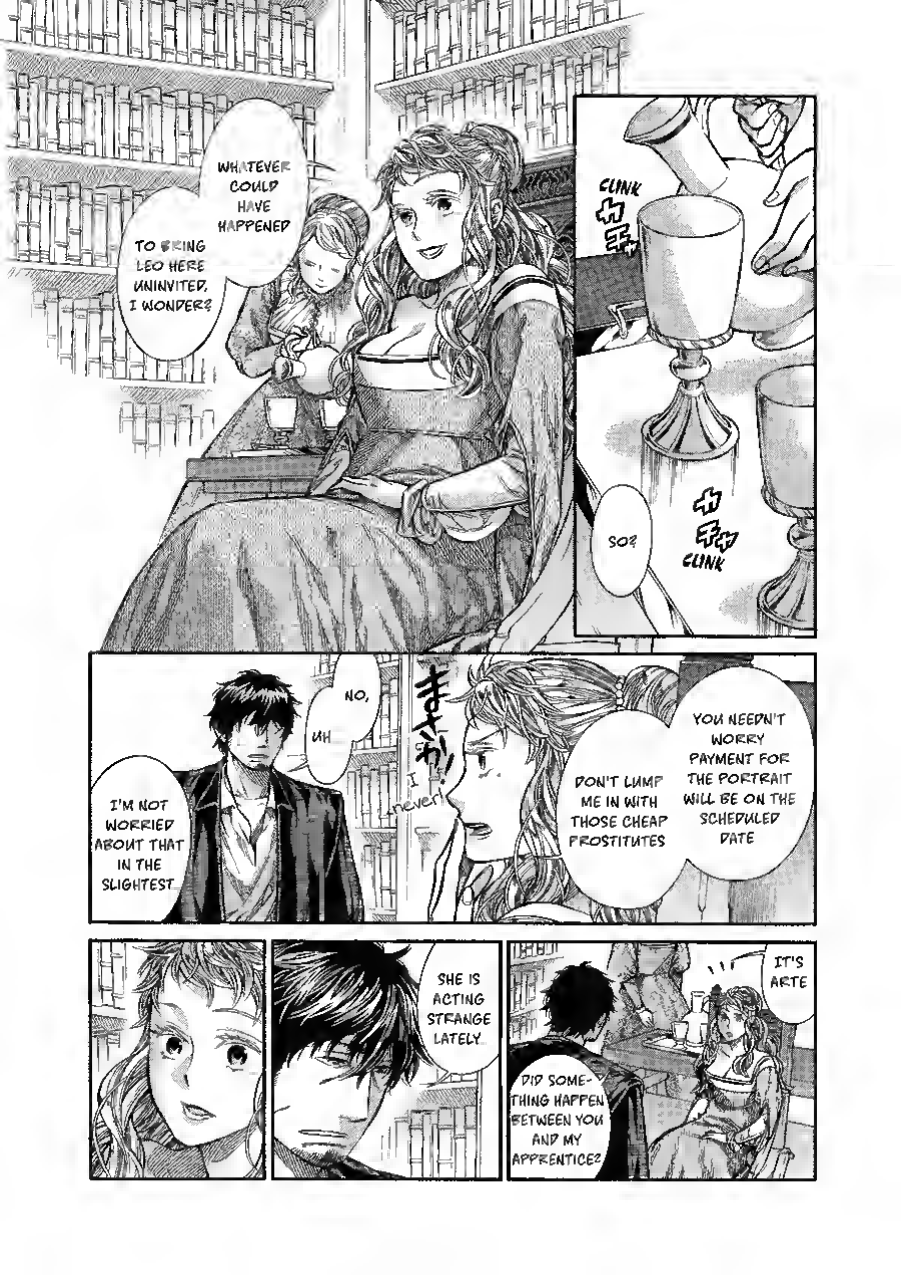

THE CLOSER I COME THE COMPLETION OF VERONICA'S PORTRAIT,
THE DEEPER MY HEART SINKS.
WHEN I FINISH,
THAT MEANS I WILL HAVE TO GO AND BRING IT TO HER.

DAB
SO I AM COOPED UP HERE AT THE WORKSHOP GETTING IT DONE
I AM PUTTING ON THE FINISH-ING TOUCHES NOW.
BUT,
PART OF ME IS ACTUALLY RELIEVED I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN VERONICA SINCE THE INCIDENT.
I JUST DON'T KNOW
HOW COULD I LOOK HER IN THE EYES?
HOW TO FACE HER...
HOW TO FACE VERONICA?

ARTE,
HOW IS THAT PORTRAIT COMING ALONG?
LET ME TAKE A LOOK
OH!
RIGHT!
AND MASTER LEO...
I APOLOGIZED RIGHT AWAY,
AND HE DID BRUSH IT OFF
Right?
I 'M SO SORRY
BOW!!
AH!
LET GO OF ME!
I WAS SO RUDE TO HIM THE OTHER DAY
WHAT?
NOTHING!
DON'T MIND ME!
LET ME SEE
APPROACH...
ズズ ooo
BEREEN
UH

THAT LOOKS ABOUT RIGHT. EXCELLENT JOB
DO THE FINISHING NOW
ONCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL CHECK YOUR DETAILING AND DO THE RETOUCHING
O-OKAY!
I'M DOING ALL I CAN TO KEEP LEO FROM COMING TOO CLOSE
IT'LL BE A DISASTER IF I MAKE ANOTHER SCENE LIKE BEFORE
PHEW
RIGHT!
WHENEVER HE GETS TOO CLOSE MY CHEST STARTS TO HURT AND I CAN'T BREATHE
SO AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T COME CLOSE, I'M FREE AND CLEAR! ♪
THAT'S HOW I'LL STAY FOCUSED ON WORK!

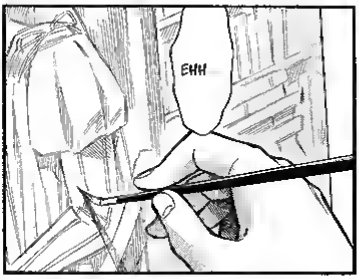
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHO'S THAT!
IT REALLY IS YOU, LEO!
...
AND I THOUGHT THE MAID WAS HAVING A LAUGH.


WHATEVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED
TO BRING LEO HERE UNINVITED, I WONDER?
CLINK
SO?
CLINK
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY PAYMENT FOR THE PORTRAIT WILL BE ON THE SCHEDULED DATE
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THOSE CHEAP PROSTITUTES
まさか!
I never!
NO, UH
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT IN THE SLIGHTEST
SHE IS ACTING STRANGE LATELY
IT'S ARTE
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND MY APPRENTICE?

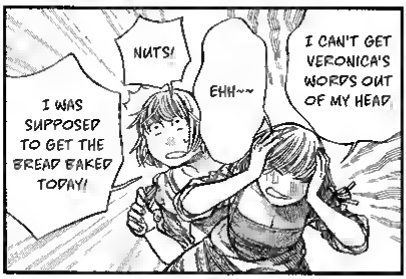
HM...
ARTE IS ACTING STRANGE...
THAT IS A CONCERN...
感心
WAXING INTEREST
SURE...
SO CONTRARY TO APPEARANCES, YOU DO CARE ABOUT HER LIKE A HUMAN BEING WOULD...
BOLD FACED
しれっ
BUT,
NOTHING SEEMED WRONG WITH HER WHEN SHE WAS WITH ME...
NO?
NO
NO, NOT THAT I NOTICED
NOTHING UNUSUAL?
LEO!
WAIT!
OKAY, I'M SORRY FOR TAKING YOUR TIME
NOT TALKING, HUH?

IF ARTE
DOESN'T SNAP OUT OF IT?
IF ARTE CONTINUES ON LIKE THIS
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER?
I GUESS ...
SHE WOULD HAVE TO QUIT HER POSITION AT THE WORK-SHOP...

NO! YOU CAN'T!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO HER, YOU HEARTLESS MAN!
WORK IS WORK AND IF I CAN'T USE HER, SHE'S DONE.
WHY DO YOU CARE?
BECAUSE I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO HER.
UH...
STRAIGHT UP
AND...
SHE KIND OF REMINDS ME OF MYSELF.
THE GIRL WILL MAKE SOME-THING OF HER-SELF
HM...
LIKE... VERONICA?
WHAT'S THAT LOOK?
UH...
WHAT LOOK?
WAS I MAKING A LOOK?
営業スマイル
Service with a Smile

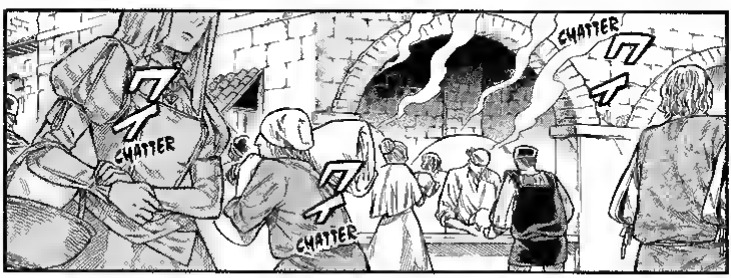

EHH

RUSTLE
RUSTLE


I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET THE BREAD BAKED TODAY!
NUTS!
EHH~~
I CAN'T GET VERONICA'S WORDS OUT OF MY HEAD

AHH! I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE!!

I'LL NEVER FINISH AT THIS RATE
OH, FIDDLE-STICKS!
THERE'S SO MUCH ELSE TO DO
TEETER
TOTTER


CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

HEY, SIGNORINA!
WELCOME BACK!
DROOP
Good day
The regular please
SIGNORINA ISN'T HERSELF TODAY YOU OKAY?
DROOP
DID YOU TRY THOSE DOUGH MAKING TIPS YET?
DOUGH
MAKING
YUP!
THANK YOU! THEY MADE THE BREAD TURN OUT JUST DELICIOUS!!
WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL
SHINE
WOW, SHE REALLY *NEEDS* HER BREAD
Hee hee
GLAD TO HEAR IT!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCE WITH JUST THAT SIMPLE CHANGE!
HAHA!
MUST BE 'CAUSE ALL I DO IS BAKE BREAD EVERY DAY
MAGNIFICO!
PSHAW!
HA HA HA!

PWA HA HA!
SOUNDS MORE LIKE AN APOLOGY TO ME!
AIN'T HE ALL PLEASED WITH HIMSELF, THE GEEZER
CAN'T BAKE NOTHING BUT BREAD, MORE LIKE.
MUST BE CAUSE ALL I DO IS BAKE BREAD EVERYDAY!
HA HA HA
UH?
FWISH
YEAH, WELL
AHA HA...
I DID GET A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY HUH?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
CLASP
AHA HA!
STOMP
HEY!
WAIT!
SIGNO-RINA

YOU APOLOGIZE!
SIGNO-RINA
WHAT THE ?
W-
WHAT'S WITH YOU, WOMAN?
HEE HEE
A-APOLO-GIZE FOR WHAT?
IT'S TRUE ISN'T IT?
CLAMP
ANYONE CAN BAKE BREAD! A MORE WORTH-LESS JOB, I'VE NEVER

WHAT IS WITH THAT WOMAN
HANDLE
OW OW OW OW!
YOU APOLOGIZE!
ONE'S JOB MAKES NO DIFFERENCE!
I SEE HIM...
...AND I RESPECT HIM FOR HIS HARD WORK!
BECAUSE...
I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU DO.
BUT SEEING THIS MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS...
...

IT IS NOT YOUR PROFESSION,
BUT
IT IS YOUR HARD WORK WHICH I RESPECT.
...
IT'S JUST
YOUR HARD WORK WHICH I RESPECT
SERI-OUSLY!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
SIGNO-RINA.

THANKS

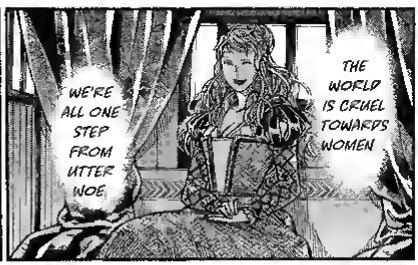
WHOA
IT STINGS, BUT HE ISN'T EXACTLY WRONG
WE COULD NEVER TALK BACK TO A CUSTOMER LIKE THAT
NO, REALLY SAYING WHAT YOU SAID THERE, WAS AWFUL KIND OF YOU.
BIG SMILES

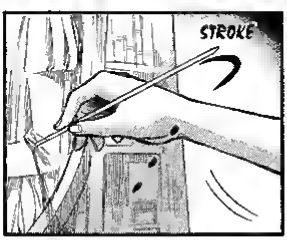
SEE,
ALL YOU DO IS TAKE IT AND LAUGH IT OFF
THERE YOU GO AGAIN
YEAH, WELL...

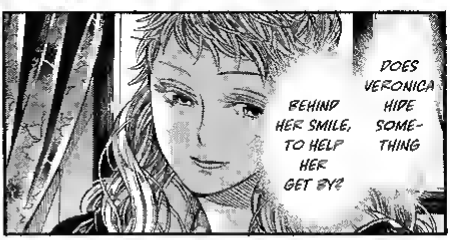
THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP TO THEM
NO,
THEY WERE GETTING ON MY NERVES, SO I GOT ANGRY AND...

BUT,
THAT INFALLIBLE SMILE OF HERS...
FILLS ME WITH NOTHING BUT FRIGHT
SMILES ALL THE TIME.
VERONICA TOO
HUH?
WHY DO YOU JUST LAUGH WHEN TALKED TO LIKE THAT?
SIR...
AND BESIDES...
I CAN'T LET THE CUSTOMER SEE I'M ANGRY WITH 'EM.
WELL... YOU KNOW...

I DO THE JOB RIGHT
WHATEVER IS SAID OR DONE,
I STILL TAKE PRIDE IN KNOWING
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


WE'RE ALL ONE STEP FROM UTTER WOE
THE WORLD IS CRUEL TOWARDS WOMEN


STROKE


DOES VERONICA HIDE SOME-THING
BEHIND HER SMILE, TO HELP HER GET BY?

I DON'T KNOW...
BUT
DONG
DONG
OKAY
YOU'VE PROGRESSED NICELY
JUST
A LITTLE DETAILING
Aha ha
I WASN'T ALL IN IT BEFORE...
YEAH?
YOU THINK SO?
JUST TRY AND YOU CAN DO IT

SWISH!
LIKE THIS
OVER HERE
FLICK
LET'S HAVE IT
FLICK
UH OH
TENSE
I MUST
BUT
CHOKE
TOO CLOSE!
SO CLOSE!
SO CLOSE!

AND THEN HERE
SHE'S BACK TO THIS AGAIN
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?

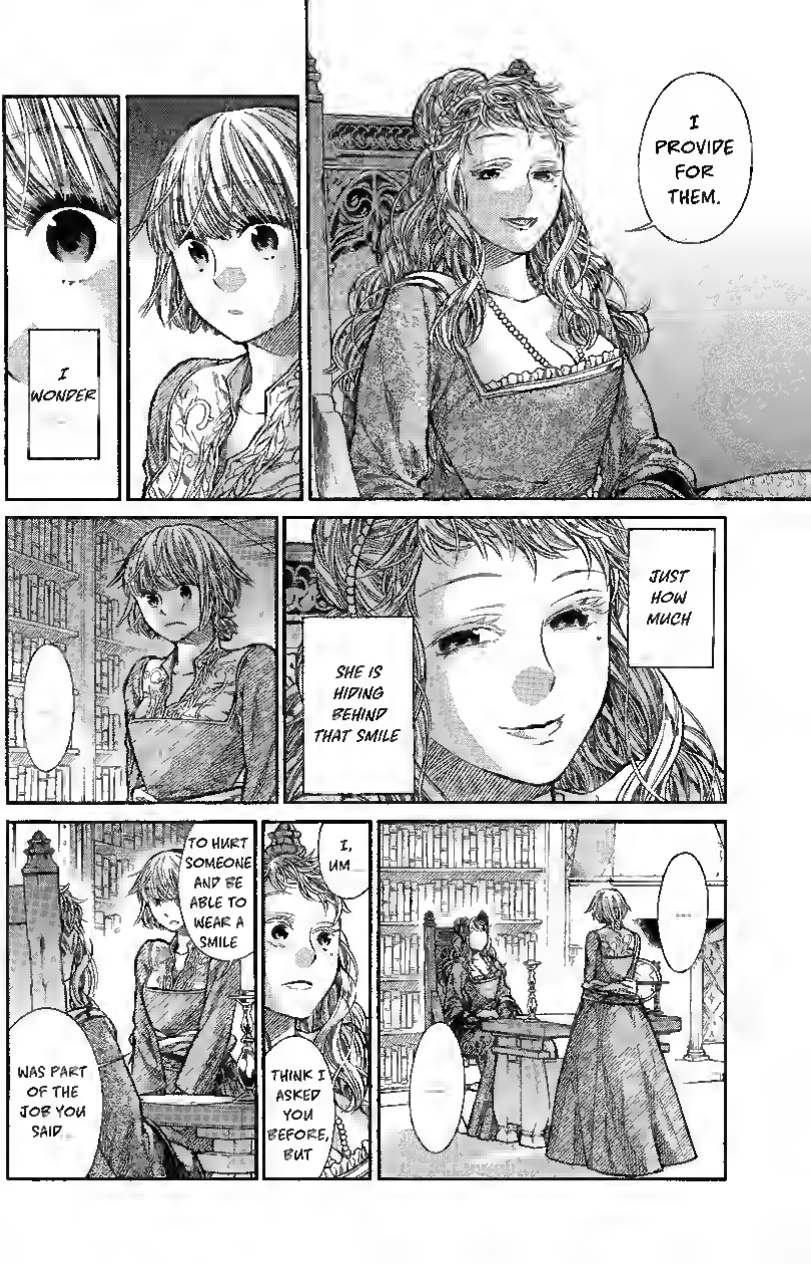
I WAS SO EAGERLY AWAITING YOU TO BRING IT TO ME
IT'S FINISHED AT LAST!

SO THIS IS HOW YOUR EYE SAW ME
THE SOFT AND GENTLE SMILE...
THE EYES MAKE YOU FEEL THE INTELLECT...
IT'S SPLENDID.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY. THANK YOU
LIKE I WOULD BE PULLED IN
I DO FEEL HER CHARM...
AFTER NOT SEEING HER SMILE FOR SO LONG
...
I STILL CAN'T...
BUT,

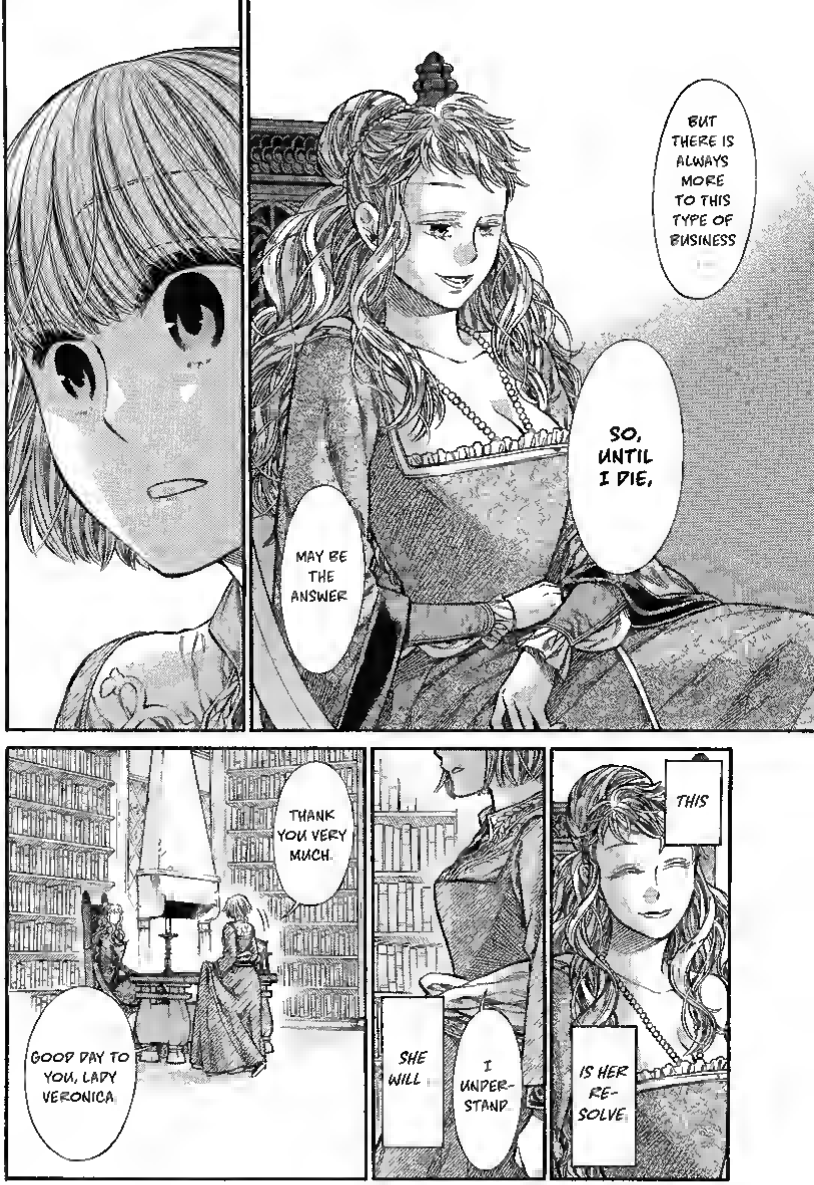
ACCEPT THAT YOUR WORK HURTS PEOPLE...
STILL,
ALWAYS DOING YOUR BEST IN YOUR OWN WAY...
YOU WANT TO STAND ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET.

AND FOR THAT, I RESPECT YOU.
Giggle
AND THAT'S OKAY.
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.

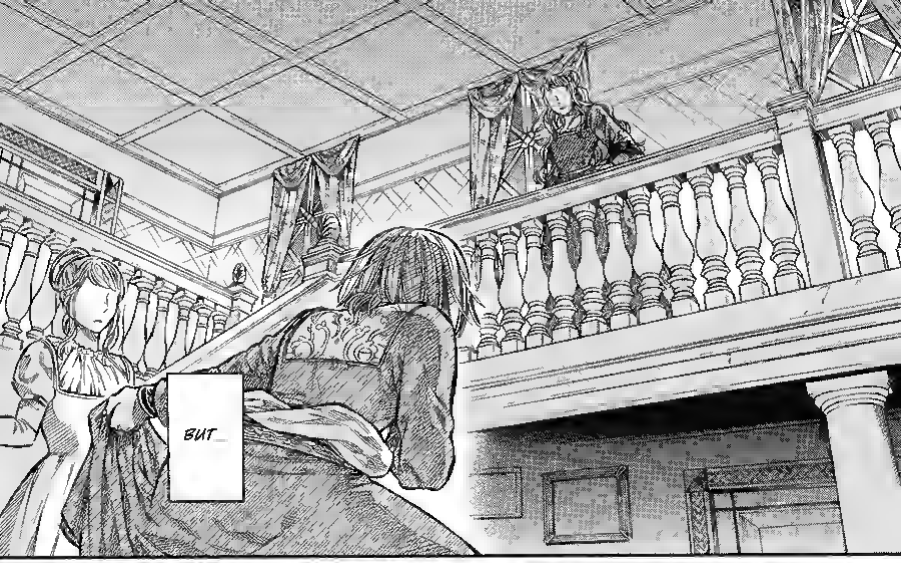
VERONICA ~~
YOU THERE?
YOU HAVE A GUEST, I SEE
Tit-ter
EXCUSE ME THEN
ABOUT YOUR BROTHER'S SCHOOL
OHE
BOW
WHO
WAS THAT?
MY MOTH-ER
CLUNK
I HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER


I WONDER...
I PROVIDE FOR THEM.
JUST HOW MUCH
SHE IS HIDING BEHIND THAT SMILE
...
I, UM...
THINK I ASKED YOU BEFORE, BUT
TO HURT SOMEONE AND BE ABLE TO WEAR A SMILE
WAS PART OF THE JOB YOU SAID...
...

YES,
THAT'S TRUE.
WILL YOU CONTINUE TO WEAR THAT SMILE?
...
HOW LONG
I WOULD LIKE TO SAY,
WHEN I GIVE UP THIS WORK,
Hmm
A HARD QUESTION


BUT THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO THIS TYPE OF BUSINESS
SO, UNTIL I DIE,
MAY BE THE ANSWER
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
GOOD DAY TO YOU, LADY VERONICA.
SHE WILL
I UNDER-STAND
THIS
IS HER RE-SOLVE.

ARTE!
GA CHUNK
IF THERE IS EVER SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU,
PLEASE SEE ME ANYTIME
I'LL NEVER
BE LIKE VERONICA AND HURT OTHER PEOPLE...
I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR ADVICE.
AS A FRIEND


BUT...

GA-CHUNK

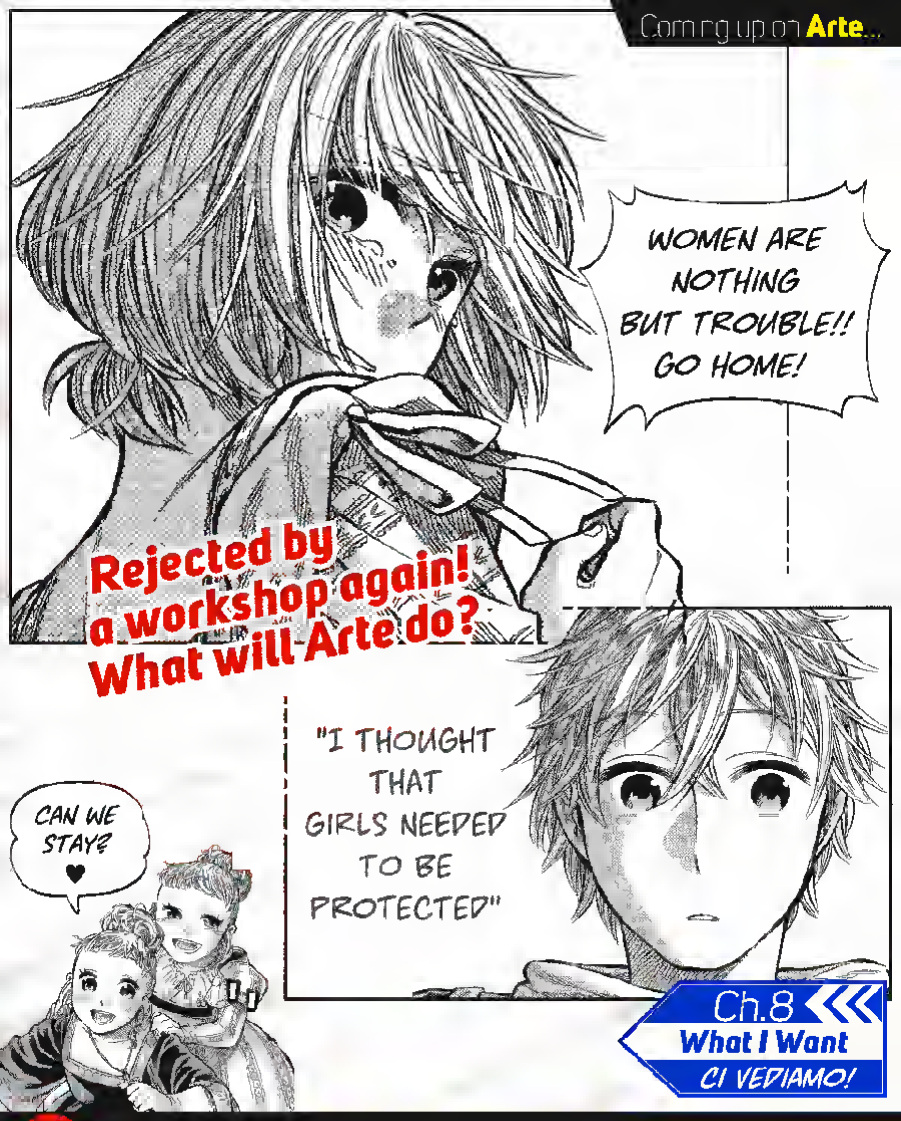
STEP
I ALSO... JUST LIKE HER...

AT THE SAME TIME...

Sigh

WANT TO EMPOWER MYSELF.
LIKE VERONICA.

• Ch. 7 END •


WOMEN ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!! GO HOME!
Rejected by a workshop again! What will Arte do?
"I THOUGHT THAT GIRLS NEEDED TO BE PROTECTED"
CAN WE STAY?
Ch.8
What I Want
CI VEDIAMO!